



A  
L E T T E R

From a French

PROTESTANT

To a Friend of his in

ENGLAND.

*August 1681.*

Together with a short

N A R A T I V E

Of the

PERSECUTIONS

Exercised upon the PROTESTANTS in

F R A N C E :

Especially In the Conuntry about

R O C H E L L .

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DUBLIN, Printed 1681.



LETTER



POSTAGE

To a friend of his in

ENGLAND.

August 1847  
Together with a short

NARRATIVE

of the

TERMINATIONS

Excited upon the PROTESTANTS in



FRANCE:

Especially in the County of

ROCHESTER.

DUBLIN, Printed 1847



A Letter from a French PROTESTANT to a Friend  
of his in England.



Sir,

**I**n my last you had an account of some of the Cruelties used against our Brethren, in the Country called Aulnix since that a friend of mine of that Country, sent me a short Narrative (hereunto annexed) of the severities used against them. This is the\*

Second Province thus Persecuted; and I am told all the others will have the same fate, this troubles me much, and I know not what Resolution to take in these extremities. Our Predecessors were happier than

we, even at the Massacre of Paris, for their Bodies were only ill used, and when once Killed, they were free of all troubles, but now we are tormented Soul and Body. And as some hath said with good Reason we are tormented at our Birth, during all our Life time, and at our Death, for at the Birth, we are not permitted to make use of any, but Popish Midwives; that they may steal away our Children during our Life, we are Rendred incapable of enjoying any Kind of Imployment, or to use any Trade, Handicraft, or Mystery to sustain it. And at our Death, we must suffer the Persecutions of Priests, and Popish Officers, who are appointed to come to our Houses, when we are Sick, and to force us to Controversies and Debates, for to know of what Religion we Die off; and so to Argue about Religion with our Enemies, at a time that we are hardly able to speak, and just falling into our Graves. But blessed be the Almighty; we as yet hear of none that have Renounced their Religion in that departing condition. And I hope His Divine Majesty will take care of us, and inspire us which way we shall take for the Persecution doth increase, and we are not able to endure this Place any longer.

\* The first was the Province of Poiston, where Protestants have been so ill used, as some of them Died of their Wounds, whereof Complaints having been made to Monsiuer de Lowuoy, and to the French King, there was no Justice don.

Here

*Here follows the Relation aforementioned.*

**S**ince your departure from home, our Brethren of *Surgere* have been Persecuted with so much Cruelty, that there are hardly Tenn of them, that have remained constant in the Faith; And those that have fled from thence, and have scattered themselves in several places. The Popish Persecutors, after having Burnt and Destroyed the Goods of the Protestants, have most feverly Cudgled some; Others they have first tied Neck and Heels together, and then carried, and dragged to the *Romish* Churches; and with Swords and Pistols at their Breests, forced them to abjure their Religion. And for those that are fled, these Executioners are still there to compell their Wives to bring forth their husbands, and children; that they may use them at the same rate. Some of them were yesterday at *Muron* to do the like there, Part of the Inhabitants of that place fled from their houses; but those that remained were forc'd to Renounce their Religion from thence they were to go to *Mauze*, next to *Marenes*, afterwards in all the Places of the Country of *Aulnix*, and to *Rochel*, and so from place to place, to Execute the like Cruelties. Since Tuesday last the Gaurds of *Rochfort* have been doubled; and the Protestants there have been forbidden to go out of the Town, or to sell their Goods; and a strict Order given to all *Roman* Catholicks not to buy any of them under a Corporal Punishment; which hath struk such a Terror in the Heart of our poor Brethren, that several of them are gone away at Random, leaving all they had behind them. This sad news striketh also such a Consternation amongst us, that we know not which way to turn, or what to do, for we expect no better usage. Pray let the Marques of *Ruvigny*, Deputy General of our Churches, be Acquainted with this; Which I leave to your prudent Conduct.

FINIS.